

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

☐

DATE

April 04, 2018

MOTOR CARRIER MATTER

☐

DOCKET NO.

2018-2-E

UTILITIES MATTER

☒

ORDER NO.

SUBJECT:

[DOCKET NO. 2018-2-E](#) - Annual Review of Base Rates for Fuel Costs for South Carolina Electric & Gas Company - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration the Motion to Bifurcate Issues Filed on Behalf of South Carolina Solar Business Alliance, Incorporated.

COMMISSION ACTION:

On March 26 we received a Motion to Bifurcate Issues from the South Carolina Solar Business Alliance ("Alliance") in Docket No. 2018-2-E. The Motion requests that certain matters be removed from consideration in this fuel proceeding. Specifically, the Alliance asks us to separate the issues of SCE&G's PR-2 Rate update and any proposed changes requested to the avoided cost methodology from the rest of the issues. The reason for the request is, essentially, that due process is not being afforded because of the procedural schedule. The motion argues that the Alliance has had insufficient time to address SCE&G's proposed change to its avoided cost methodology in this case.

However, Docket No. 2018-2-E was established in October 2017, and a Notice of Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines was issued and noticed no later than December 17, 2017. The Notice of Hearing explicitly states that the avoided costs will be considered in the case. Moreover, this is consistent with prior practice. For several prior annual proceedings, SCE&G has consistently included avoided costs in its PR-2 Rate, and updated that rate during the fuel proceedings – exactly as it proposes to do now.

I would note that in our Order 2016-297 in Docket No. 2016-2-E (which, like 2017-2-E, is an annual SCE&G fuel case in which the Alliance was a party) stated that, "In accordance with Act 236 of 2014, any adjustments to the PR-1 or PR-2 tariff should be considered as part of the Company's annual fuel proceeding." Additionally, S.C. Code § 58-27-865(A)(2)(c) requires us to include avoided costs under PURPA as part of fuel costs related to purchased power.

Likewise, the Alliance did not challenge our decision that SCE&G's proposed changes to avoided cost methodology and updates to PR-2 should be considered in the 2018 fuel case. As a result, the Alliance is barred from seeking the same relief which was previously rejected in Order No. 2018-55 in Docket No. 2017-2-E.

Any due process concern must be examined carefully to make sure that all parties are given an adequate opportunity to honor their rights under the law. In this instance, the motion before us fails to convince me that such rights have been violated. Of course, avoided cost, which is required by statute to be considered in fuel proceedings, largely results in the PR-2 schedules. Therefore, both the PR-2 schedule and avoided cost matters have been incorporated into these fuel proceedings in the past. Further, the motion today is made by a party that was also a party to those proceedings.

Given all the circumstances, I move that we deny the Alliance's motion.

PRESIDING: Whitfield

SESSION: Regular

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER
BOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ELAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
FLEMING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HAMILTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
RANDALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
WHITFIELD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

